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Imagery analysis report

New Command and Control Silo, Serpukhov, USSR (S)

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NEW COMMAND AND CONTROL SILO, SERPUKHOV, USSR (S)

1. (S/D) A command and control silo was under construction in the USSR during July 1980 at Serpukhov Radio Communications Receiver Station/Hard (), a probable Soviet General Staff national-level command and control facility. This is the first command and control silo identified at a national-level command and control facility. The silo is similar in size and appearance to silos previously identified at Kapustin Yar Missile/Space Test Center, SSM () and at the Semipalatinsk

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2. (S/D) At Serpukhov, the silo under construction is adjacent to the control bunker. Construction on this silo was first observed on () (Figure 1). The silo shaft and headworks section of the silo had been excavated and faced with probable facing blocks. The headworks portion of the silo is () in diameter and () in depth. The silo shaft is () in diameter. A probable headworks base and a probable headworks component were on the ground near the silo, with outer and inner diameters of () respectively. Probable silo wall sections () were also observed. On () (Figure 2), a truck-mounted crane was observed positioned to lower probable silo wall sections into the silo. The probable headworks base and probable headworks component were in the same location as they were on ()

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3. (S/D) At Shagan River Test Area (Figure 3), a probable command and control silo is under construction at vulnerability area 108. The silo, designated 15, was first observed in late February 1980. The approximate diameter of the headworks portion of the silo is () and it is about () in depth. The diameter of the silo shaft is about (). A silo base and at least six silo wall sections, about () long, have been installed in the silo. The inner diameter of the silo, after the installation of the wall sections, was about (). A probable headworks base, with outer and inner diameters of about () respectively, was assembled next to the silo. No other components have been observed.

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4. (S/D) At Kapustin Yar (Figure 4), the same type of silo was constructed in the administration/barracks section of the MR/IRBM Bivouac Troop Training Area (). It was first identified under construction in September 1976 and was completed by early 1978. It is the only one of the three silos that has been completed. The headworks portion of the silo is () in diameter and () in depth. The silo shaft is () in diameter. The completed silo (Figure 5) has an environmental cover () in diameter and is surrounded by a concrete service apron. The silo is apparently intended for electronics equipment and not personnel, since the silo cover has no hinged door and there is no underground passageway into the silo.

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5. (S/D) The silos at Serpukhov, Kapustin Yar, and Shagan River are different from the type IIX silos at launch control facilities (LCF) associated with Soviet ICBM systems (Figure 6). The LCF silo is a larger silo, with headworks () in diameter and () in depth. The silo shaft is () in diameter (Figure 7). The LCF silo also has an underground personnel passageway leading to a support building.

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6. (S/D) The silo at Kapustin Yar is believed to be associated with SS-20 command and control, since it is cable connected to two SS-20-associated communications towers and to a command and control building that is also cable connected to the two towers and to the concrete apron where TWIN EAR antennas are located. The silo at Serpukhov is associated with command and control, but there is no evidence of SS-20-related activity in the area. The silo at Shagan River Test Area will be an effects item in a future vulnerability test at area 108.

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All applicable KEYHOLE imagery acquired through [] was used in the preparation of this report.

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DOCUMENT

1. Hq FTD, AFSC, [] RFB-22/0009/79, *Type IIIA Silo (U)*, Sep 79 (TOP SECRET R)

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RELATED DOCUMENTS

NPIC, Z-20008/80, IAR-0103/80, *Area 108—New Vulnerability Test Site—at Shagan River Test Area, USSR (S)*
Jun 80 (SECRET [])

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NPIC, [] PIR-017/77, *Possible SS-X-20 Associated Command and Control Silo Under Construction at Kapustin Yar, USSR*, Aug 77 (TOP SECRET [])

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to []

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